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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 3

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Cuba: draft resolution

1997/... Restructuring and revitalization of the Commission on Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which recognized the necessity for a continuing adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery to the current and future needs in the promotion and protection of human rights for all people,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 1 July 1996 in which the Assembly called upon the relevant intergovernmental bodies to fully implement measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Concerned about the considerable increase in the workload, including the growing amount of documentation submitted to and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission over the years,

Conscious of the need to make economical use of the time and resources of the Commission,

1. Decides to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights to consider the issues included in the annex to the present resolution and to submit specific proposals to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session;

2. Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the Commission on Human Rights".

Annex

Issues to be considered by the open-ended inter-sessional working group

1. Duration of the annual session of the Commission,

2. Restructuring of the agenda:

   (a) Clustering of items,

   (b) Periodicity of the consideration of items.

3. Documentation to be considered by the Commission, inter alia:

   (a) Availability of Commission documents prior to the opening of the annual session;

   (b) Availability of background documentation;

   (c) Contributions by Member States governmental and inter-governmental observers and non-governmental organizations.

4. The Commission's methods of work:

   (a) Time-limits for statements by States members of the Commission, governmental and intergovernmental observers, and non-governmental organizations, guest speakers, special rapporteurs, experts, special representatives and chairmen rapporteurs;

   (b) Method for consultations during the session, including the allocation of time and venues for this purpose;

   (c) Participation of non-governmental organizations in the debate on the various substantive items of the agenda;

   (d) Review of the overall system of submission of reports, inter alia by the Secretary-General, the Commission's inter-sessional working groups and thematic and country special procedures.

5. Overall review of the special procedures system:

   (a) Special rapporteurs, special representatives and individual experts;

   (b) Working groups.

6. Review of staffing policy and overall support by the Secretariat to the Commission.

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